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(54) Title: TEA MANUFACTURE

(57) Abstract: A process for manufacturing a cold water soluble black leaf tea comprises the steps of (a) optionally withering freshly plucked tea leaf, (b) macerating the leaves, (c) allowing the leaves to ferment, (d) firing the leaves to arrest fermentation and (e) then drying them to yield black leaf tea, the process being characterised in that the tea leaves are treated before fermentation or before mid-fermentation with a pH lowering agent, followed by treatment during fermentation with ascorbic acid, salts of ascorbic acid or mixtures thereof at mid-fermentation or later in an amount that is sufficient for the black leaf tea to be infusible in water at 5 to 100 °C.

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